Not a representative

File No. F. 41/46-R

Collection No.

1946.

Secretariat of the
Governor-General
(Reforms)

Pres. Serial Nos.

Subject.

Representation from the Maharatha Peoples Party for the creation of a seperate Maharatha Provence out of areas now contained in Bombay, C.P. & Berar.

Previous References.

Later References.

K
Hol

F. 41/46-R

S. 97 (Unbleached)
M.GIPC—S2—1067(S&P) MFP (6862/A/M-661)—25-11-44—2,00,000.

Serial Nos. 1 & 2

The central object of the representation from the Maratha Peoples' Party is the creation of a separate Maratha Province out of areas now contained in the Province of Bombay and the Province of C.P. & Berar. As the question of the redistribution of Provinces is likely to be taken up by the Constitution-making body, it is requested that Marathas should be nominated to the Constitution-making body in sufficient number "to give the convention a truly democratic colour".

2. The question of the Constitution-making body will come up for consideration at the proposed Preliminary Conference of Indian leaders. The question of a Maratha Province has not so far been in the public eye, but it will probably have to be dealt with on the same lines as other similar demands from the Andhras, the Canarese etc. The provisional plan set up in the Cripps Offer contemplates elections from the Provincial Legislative Assemblies by proportional representation of about one-tenth of the number to function as the Constitution-making body. Since the Maratha have at present 7 reserved seats in the Bombay Assembly, they should be able, by combination with other parties, to ensure the election of at least 1 maratha representative. So far as can be foreseen at present, strenuous objection is likely to be taken up by political parties to any proposal for nomination and it would obviously be difficult to provide by this means for adequate representation of all elements which put forth demands of this nature.

3. If the question of redistribution of Province is at all pursued, the Marathas should have as good a prospect of winning their case as most others. The Congress, for its part is committed to the principle of linguistic Provinces and the Mahratha is one of the regional classifications. For the rest the Maharathas Marathas would have to rely upon propaganda and agitation for gaining acceptance of their case. This

is a matter for the Constitution-making body and the future Indian Governments; it does not seem possible for the present Government to help much. There does not appear to be any advantage in a deputation waiting upon H.E. in this connection.

The India Office* have passed on to me the representation forwarded by the Maratha Peoples Party to the Secretary of State for the consideration of the Governor General and for such action as may be thought appropriate. P.S.V. has already acknowledged receipt of the communication. It is for consideration whether we should ask for the comments of the Governor of Bombay on the position of the Marathas.

* Flag S

RL 7/2/46.

11.2.46

No action on the part of the P.R. is necessary.

C Ganesan
14.2.46

R.L.

14/2

B+9.
M 14/2/46.

Serial no. 4 (above)

Dy.No.17-R/46

Persian No. (5)

This is addressed to the Secy. to the Governor-General (Reforms) and may be transferred to him for disposal. This was received in the Political Dept. through some error.

30.1.46.

30-1-46

DSR

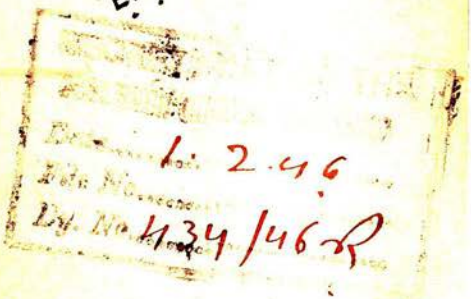
As proposed.

30/1/46

E.B. WAKEFIELD.

S G G (Reforms) N.R.

P.D. U/O. No. D. 17-R/46 JNJ 31-1-46.

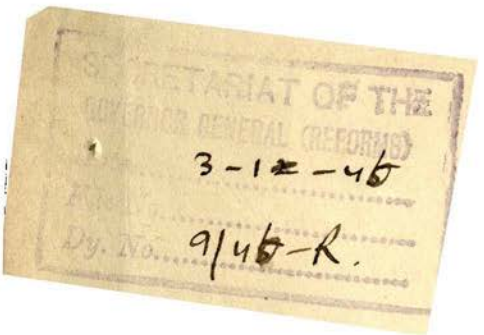


JNJ 1/2

KNV 2/1 P. — 5 (1)

(1)

OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE VICEROY.



No. D. 5492/GG.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Transferred for disposal to the Secretary to the Governor-General (REFORMS).

for Assistant Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

New Delhi;
The 31st Decr. 1945.

DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING:

P. S. V. 3.

H&PSV—2,000—5-6-34—GIPS

D.No. 5492-GG
24.12.45

(P) 16 — 6 —

C/O Vikram General Assurance, Ltd.,
11, Bank Street, Fort,
Bombay.

~~12th~~ 21st December, 1945.

May it Please Your Excellency,

I have the honour to forward ~~to you~~ a copy of the memorial submitted by me on behalf of the Maratha Peoples' Party to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, for Your Excellency's information and kind consideration.

I beg to remain,

Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant

D. A. Chavan

President,
Maratha Peoples Party.

? Ack. & pass to Reforms Secretariat.
HE
27/12
22/12

A well-drafted memorial. Para 14 is the operative part. The preliminary conference will have to consider claims to representation in the CWC.

HE
28/12

To

His Excellency Field Marshal Lord Wavell, G.M.S.I
Viceroy of India, G.M.I.E., G.C.B., C.M.G.,
NEW DELHI. M.C.,

To

The Right Honourable Lord Pethick-Lawrence,
The Secretary of State for India,
LONDON.

The humble Memorial of the
Maratha Peoples' Party,

Most Respectfully Sheweth,

That on his return to India, after consultations with His Majesty's Government in Great Britain, His Excellency the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell, announced his decision to hold elections to the Central and the Provincial Legislatures, and to form a Constituent Assembly, from amongst the elected representatives of the Provinces and the Centre, to deliberate upon and perhaps to form the new Constitution for India. The simultaneous broadcast by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was to the same effect.

2. This memorial is, therefore, being submitted to Your Lordship on behalf of over thirty million Marathas, all Hindus who form about one-tenth of the Hindu population of India and probably one-seventh of the population of British India, with a prayer that having regard to linguistic, cultural, homogeneous and geographic considerations the Marathas and all Marathi speaking peoples

should be brought under one provincial administration, that is, in the future Indian Constitution, Marathas and all Marathi speaking peoples should have a Province of their own.

3. At present the Marathas and the Marathi speaking peoples are to be found in two separate geographic groups, that is, in the Province of Bombay and the Province of C.P. and Berar. In the Bombay Province, excepting the area known as Gujarat and one district, and probably another, in the south eastern boundary of the Province, all other districts of this Province consist overwhelmingly of Marathas and Marathi speaking peoples; the other castes and communities being the depressed classes who of course speak the Marathi language and indeed bear Maratha names and a very negligible proportion of Muslims who also speak our language and, indeed, culturally are closely associated with the Marathas. In the Central Provinces and Berar there are two groups now commonly known as the C.P. Hindi speaking area and C.P. Marathi speaking area. Of these Berar is entirely Maratha and is contiguous with the C.P. Marathi speaking areas where also the Maratha population is overwhelming. The position of the depressed classes in this area is similar to that in the Bombay Province. The Muslims there also speak the Marathi language and form a very small minority. Both Berar and the C.P. Marathi speaking areas are contiguous with the Marathi speaking areas of the Province of Bombay.

4. The city of Bombay having a pre-war population of one and a half million is ostensibly made out to assume a cosmopolitan appearance. In point of fact, however, the

Maratha and Marathi speaking people in the City exceed over half the total population. The other important communities are made up of Gujaratis, Muslims and Parsees. The residue consists of people from all other parts of India.

5. The other non-Maratha castes in the two Provinces are the Brahmins and other forward castes. They, of course, speak Marathi; it is their mother tongue and indeed it is these castes which predominently man the services, Imperial, Provincial, Commercial and Municipal in the two Provinces.

6. For the purpose of this Memorial the definition of Maratha is the same as the one accepted under the Government of India Act.

7. It is an admitted fact that the geographic demarcation of the present Provincial boundaries, and, much more so that of the two Provinces in question, was to say the least, haphazard and the result of British conquest and settlement. And in those days of conquest and the ensuing policy of attaining supremacy and paramountcy, the bifurcation of the Marathas and the Marathi speaking peoples might even have been deliberate—a product of the then British Policy, having regard to the fact that the British succeeded the Marathas to the overlordship of India.

8. In the last 150 years the transformation of the Marathas from the position of Rulers to the position of serfdom has been complete and a vindictive conqueror could not have desired a better consummation of his project.

9. Now, however, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has decided that India shall have self-government and it is as a consequence of this declaration of the intention that the Maratha people have decided to make this final approach to you for the purpose stated in paragraph 2 above.

10. It is first necessary that you should have before you the economic position of the Marathas so as to judge for yourself whether under the existing franchise they would be capable of taking an effective part in the forthcoming provincial election and *a fortiori* in the resulting Constituent Assembly which His Excellency the Viceroy will summon.

The overwhelming mass of the Maratha people are cultivators residing in villages with annual income from their landholdings hardly sufficient to fetch bare necessities of life. The position of village labour is much worse.

Our lower middle class consists of persons in occupations such as clerks and small tradesmen and their position is perhaps even worse than that of the cultivators; these occupations forcing them to live in towns and cities.

Our middle class (upper) consists of slightly larger land holders, Inam-holders, lawyers, doctors and men in Government Service. This class is a very small one. The really richer class amongst us consisting of large land and Inam-holders and tradesmen is indeed small in number.

The Maratha labour which is next in size to that of our cultivators, is to be found mostly in large towns and cities occupied in industries and domestic service. Their condition is none better than that of village labour.

11. This, it is hoped, will convince Your Lordship that Provincial elections taking place on the existing franchise will not reflect Maratha opinion and, indeed, it is doubtful if even 5 per cent Marathas can avail of the franchise. It is, therefore, clear that Maratha public opinion will not be represented in the Constituent Assembly and it cannot be expected to have their representative delegates in this Constitution-making Assembly.

12. His Majesty's Government is likely to hold the view that the Constituent Assembly would be the proper body to deliberate and decide the question of forming new Provinces or readjusting the boundaries of the existing ones. If that is going to be the case and in view of the position detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 above how is His Majesty's Government going to provide for Maratha representation on the Constituent Assembly on its acknowledged population basis? It is our confirmed view that this palpable defect can be cured only by an instruction from His Majesty's Government to His Excellency the Viceroy that in such a case he must resort to nomination of Marathas to give the convention a truly democratic colour. It is self-evident that it is the existing franchise that is preventing the Marathas from giving expression to their political thoughts in the necessary democratic form.

13. And, since it is now the confirmed intention of His Majesty's Government to confer self-government on India, the Marathas feel that in the present stage of the Constitutional evolution Your Government owes it to the thirty million Marathas to provide them with a representative position in the Constitution-making Assembly. We feel that, if we are denied this right you will not have shouldered your constitutional responsibilities with justice and fairplay and, indeed, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will demonstrate a lack of moral courage.

14. In the circumstances stated above it is our considered opinion that (a) the arrangement sought in the last part of paragraph 12 should be applied in the case of Maratha representation (b) that there should be an universal plebiscite of all Marathi speaking people in the two Provinces in question to decide the issue of a Province for them and (c) that in view of the present economic backwardness of the Marathas they should be given reservation of Seats in the Legislatures for a period of about twenty years in proportion to their numerical strength. Even in a separate Province this reservation will have to exist to give the Legislatures a truly democratic colour. This would be the minimum justice His Majesty's Government could render the Maraths.

15. We have read with interest Your Lordship's announcement of the 4th December 1945 and while we realise that the delegation will come out with instructions to contact Leaders of Political organisations whether Central or Provincial we feel that the subject brought out in this

memorial is one requiring the personal attention of Your Lordship as it refers to a vitally important question. Indeed it is our feeling that His Majesty's Government should have decided the question of Provincial regroupings before calling into being a Constituent Assembly.

16. Finally we beg to remind His Majesty's Government of the stupendous service the Marathas have rendered to the cause of the United Kingdom and of humanity in the last war and, in a far more spectacular manner in the war just terminated. The manpower employed in the Army alone exceeds one hundred thousand and that in the Army affiliated and subsidiary war services another three hundred thousand. When history is recorded let it not be said that the Marathas were let down badly—it will redound neither to the glory of the British peoples nor of the Maratha peoples.

I beg to remain,
Your Lordship,
Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

(Sd.) D. A. SURVE,

President,
Maratha Peoples' Party.

—/0— (22) 14— 10

No.D.5492/GG.

31st December 1945.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to His Excellency the Viceroy dated the 21st December 1945 and the enclosure.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) W.L. Harrison.
Assistant Secretary.

The President,
Maratha Peoples Party,
C/O Vikram General Assurance Ltd,
11, Bank Street, Fort,
Bombay.

(3) — 15 — 17

THE MARATHA PEOPLES' PARTY

President:
RAO BAHADUR
D. A SURVE.

D. No. 4-66/46. 2.1.46

C/O.Vikram General Assurance,Ltd.,
11, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.
28th Dec.,1945.

Your Excellency,

I have already forwarded to Your Excellency a copy of the memorial submitted by me to the Secretary of State for India in connection with the formation of a Province for the marathi speaking people and of the necessity of nominating maratha representatives to the Constituent Assembly.

I have also addressed the Home Department of Your Excellency's Government requesting that facilities may kindly be afforded to me to meet the Parliamentary Delegation when it visits India.

As Your Excellency will very shortly go through this representation it is my earnest belief that Your Excellency will be convinced of the unassailable case made out in favour of a Province for the marathi speaking people.

Having regard to Your Excellency's intimate

(3) — 15 — 17

THE MARATHA PEOPLES' PARTY

President:
RAO BAHADUR
D. A. SURVE.

D. No. 4-6a/46. 2. 1. 46

C/O. Vikram General Assurance, Ltd.,
11, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.
28th Dec., 1945.

Your Excellency,

I have already forwarded to Your Excellency a copy of the memorial submitted by me to the Secretary of State for India in connection with the formation of a Province for the marathi speaking people and of the necessity of nominating maratha representatives to the Constituent Assembly.

I have also addressed the Home Department of Your Excellency's Government requesting that facilities may kindly be afforded to me to meet the Parliamentary Delegation when it visits India.

As Your Excellency will very shortly go through this representation it is my earnest belief that Your Excellency will be convinced of the unassailable case made out in favour of a Province for the marathi speaking people.

Having regard to Your Excellency's intimate

intimate knowledge of the tremendous war efforts of the Marathas and the sacrifices they have made in the cause of the United Kingdom and the Empire and for the preservation of human rights, would I be asking too much of Your Excellency if you endeavoured to place the marathi speaking people on the political map of India? At a time when the British people are pledged to give India freedom we feel that it is Your Excellency's primary responsibility, as the principal representative of your people in this country, to place before the Parliamentary Committee the position occupied by the Marathas and of the imperative necessity to render them the justice which has been so long deferred. I feel this is definitely the last occasion and if it is missed the Marathas particularly will be reduced to the position of under dogs and their dignity and honour placed at the mercy of the exploiters. Surely the responsibility falls on Your Excellency to make a last effort to save the community from falling into

into an abyss of shame and degredation and to secure to it a life of dignity and consciousness if for no other reason at least because of the sacrifices it has made to save the United Kingdom and the Empire from the catastrophe it recently faced.

If Your Excellency desires to be fully possessed of the Maratha point of view in the matter I shall regard it a privilege to present it personally to Your Excellency.

I beg to remain,

Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant

President
Maratha Peoples Party.

To
His Excellency
Field Marshal Lord Wavell, G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.,
G.C.B., C.M.G., M.C.,
Viceroy of India,
NEW - DELHI.

14.

— 18 —

No. D. 4/GG.

SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL (REFORMS)
Date 5-1-46
File No.
Dy. No. 50/46-R.

(4)

3rd January 1946.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to His Excellency the Viceroy dated the 28th December 1945.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) W.L. Harrison.

Assistant Secretary.

The President,
The Maratha Peoples' Party,
C/O Vikram General Assurance Ltd,
11, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.

Copy, with letter in original under reply, forwarded to SGG(Reforms) for disposal in continuation of this Office Memorandum No. D.5492/GG dated 2.1.46.

W. L. Harrison

3. 1. 46.

D.17-R/46.

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

Pol.6296/46. 21st January, 1946.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State to forward, for the consideration of the Governor General and for such action as may be thought appropriate, a memorial addressed to him by the Maratha People's Party regarding the representation of Marátha opinion in the Constitution - making body.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

for Secretary,
Political Department.

The Secretary to the
Governor General,
(Reforms).

(14

— 20 —

To,

The Right Honourable Lord Pethick-Lawrence,
The Secretary of State for India,
LONDON.

**The humble Memorial of the
Maratha Peoples' Party.**

Most Respectfully Sheweth,

That on his return to India, after consultations with His Majesty's Government in Great Britain, His Excellency the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell, announced his decision to hold elections to the Central and the Provincial Legislatures, and to form a Constituent Assembly, from amongst the elected representatives of the Provinces and the Centre, to deliberate upon and perhaps to form the new Constitution for India. The simultaneous broadcast by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was to the same effect.

2. This memorial is, therefore, being submitted to Your Lordship on behalf of over thirty million Marathas, all Hindus who form about one-tenth of the Hindu population of India and probably one-seventh of the population of British India, with a prayer that having regard to linguistic, cultural, homogeneous and geographic considerations the Marathas and all Marathi speaking peoples should be brought under one provincial administration, that is, in the future Indian Constitution, Marathas and all Marathi speaking peoples should have a Province of their own.

3. At present the Marathas and the Marathi speaking peoples are to be found in two separate geographic groups, that is, in the Province of Bombay and the Province of C.P. and Berar. In the Bombay Province excepting the area known as Gujarat and one district, and probably another, in the south eastern boundary of the Province, all other districts of this Province consist overwhelmingly of Marathas and Marathi speaking peoples; the other castes and communities being the depressed classes who of course speak the Marathi language and indeed bear Maratha names and a very negligible proportion of Muslims who also speak our language and, indeed, culturally are closely associated with the Marathas. In the Central Provinces and Berar there are two groups now commonly known as the C.P. Hindi speaking area and C.P. Marathi speaking area. Of these Berar is entirely Maratha and is contiguous with the C.P. Marathi speaking areas where also the Maratha population is overwhelming. The position of the depressed classes in this area is similar to that in Bombay Province. The Marathas there also speak the Marathi language and form a very small minority. Both Berar and the C.P. Marathi speaking areas are contiguous with the Marathi speaking areas of the Province of Bombay.

4. The city of Bombay having a pre-war population of one and a half million is ostensibly made out to assume a cosmopolitan appearance. In point of fact, however, the Maratha and Marathi speaking people in the City exceed over half the total population. The other important communities are made up of Gujaratis, Muslims and Parsees. The residue consists of people from all other parts of India.

5. The other non-Maratha castes in the two Provinces are the Brahmins and other forward castes. They, of course, speak Marathi; it is their mother tongue and indeed it is these castes which predominently man the services, Imperial, Provincial, Commercial and Municipal in the two Provinces.

6. For the purpose of this Memorial the definition of Maratha is the same as the one accepted under the Government of India Act.

7. It is an admitted fact that the geographic demarcation of the present Provincial boundaries, and, much more so that of the two Provinces in question, was to say the least, haphazard as the result of British conquest and settlement. And in those days of conquest and the ensuing policy of attaining supremacy and paramountcy, the bifurcation of the Marathas and the Marathi speaking peoples might even have been deliberate— a product of the then British Policy, having regard to the fact that the British succeeded the Marathas to the overlordship of India.

8. In the last 150 years the transformation of the Marathas from the position of Rulers to the position of serfdom has been complete and a vindictive conqueror could not have desired a better consummation of his project.

9. Now, however, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has decided that India shall have self-government and it is as a consequence of this declaration of the intention that the Maratha people have decided to make this final approach to you for the purpose stated in paragraph 2 above.

10. It is first necessary that you should have before you the economic position of the Marathas so as to judge for yourself whether under the existing franchise they would be capable of taking an effective part in the forthcoming provincial election and *a fortiori* in the resulting Constituent Assembly which His Excellency the Viceroy will summon.

The overwhelming mass of the Maratha people are cultivators residing in villages with annual income from their land holdings hardly sufficient to fetch bare necessities of life. The position of village labour is much worse.

Our lower middle class consists of persons in occupations such as clerks and small tradesmen and their position is perhaps even worse than that of the cultivators; these occupations forcing them to live in towns and cities.

Our middle class (upper) consists of slightly larger land holders, Inam-holders, lawyers, doctors and men in Government Service. This class is a very small one. The really richer class amongst us consisting of large land and Inam-holders and tradesmen is indeed small in number.

The Maratha labour which is next in size to that of our cultivators, is to be found mostly in large towns and cities occupied in industries and domestic service. Their condition is none better than that of village labour.

11. This, it is hoped, will convince Your Lordship that Provincial elections taking place on the existing franchise will not reflect Maratha opinion and, indeed, it is doubtful if even 5 per cent Marathas can avail of the franchise. It is, therefore, clear that Maratha public opinion will not be represented in the Constituent Assembly and it cannot be expected to have their representative delegates in this Constitution-making Assembly.

12. His Majesty's Government is likely to hold the view that the Constituent Assembly would be the proper body to deliberate and decide the question of forming new Provinces or readjusting the boundaries of the existing ones. If that is going to be the case and in view of the position detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 above how is His Majesty's Government going to provide for Maratha representation on the Constituent Assembly

on its acknowledged population basis? It is our confirmed view that this palpable defect can be cured only by an instruction from His Majesty's Government to His Excellency the Viceroy that in such a case he must resort to nomination of Marathas to give the convention a truly democratic colour. It is self-evident that it is the existing franchise that is preventing the Marathas from giving expression to their political thoughts in the necessary democratic form.

13. And, since it is now the confirmed intention of His Majesty's Government to confer self-government on India, the Marathas feel that in the present stage of the Constitutional evolution Your Government owes it to the thirty million Marathas to provide them with a representative position in the Constitution-making Assembly. We feel that, if we are denied this right you will not have shouldered your constitutional responsibilities with justice and fairplay and, indeed, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will demonstrate a lack of moral courage.

14. In the circumstances stated above it is our considered opinion that (a) the arrangement sought in the last part of paragraph 12 should be applied in the case of Maratha representation (b) that there should be an universal plebiscite of all Marathi speaking people in the two Provinces in question to decide the issue of a Province for them and (c) that in view of the present economic backwardness of the Marathas they should be given reservation of Seats in the Legislatures for a period of about twenty years in proportion to their numerical strength. Even in a separate Province this reservation will have to exist to give the Legislatures a truly democratic colour. This would be the minimum justice His Majesty's Government could render the Marathas.

15. We have read with interest Your Lordship's announcement of the 4th December 1945 and while we realise that the delegation will come out with instructions to contact Leaders of Political organisations whether Central or Provincial we feel that the subject brought out in this memorial is one requiring the personal attention of Your Lordship as it refers to a vitally important question. Indeed it is our feeling that His Majesty's Government should have decided the question of Provincial regroupings before calling into being a Constituent Assembly.

16. Finally we beg to remind His Majesty's Government of the stupendous service the Marathas have rendered to the cause of the United Kingdom and of humanity in the last war and, in a far more spectacular manner in the war just terminated. The manpower employed in the Army alone exceeds one hundred thousand and that in the Army affiliated and subsidiary war services another three hundred thousand. When history is recorded let it not be said that the Marathas were let down badly— it will redound neither to the glory of the British peoples nor of the Maratha peoples.

I beg to remain,
Your Lordship,
Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

D.A. Surve

22nd Dec.,1945.

(Rao Bahadur D.A. Surve)
President,
Maratha Peoples' Party.
C/O.Vikram General Assurance,Ltd.,
11,Bank Street,Fort, Bombay(India).

To

The Right Honourable Lord Pethick-Lawrence,
The Secretary of State for India,
LONDON.

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Maratha Peoples' Party,

Most Respectfully Sheweth,

That on his return to India, after consultations with His Majesty's Government in Great Britain, His Excellency the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell, announced his decision to hold elections to the Central and the Provincial Legislatures, and to form a Constituent Assembly, from amongst the elected representatives of the Provinces and the Centre, to deliberate upon and perhaps to form the new Constitution for India. The simultaneous broadcast by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was to the same effect.

2. This memorial is, therefore, being submitted to Your Lordship on behalf of over thirty million Marathas, all Hindus who form about one-tenth of the Hindu population of India and probably one-seventh of the population of British India, with a prayer that having regard to linguistic, cultural, homogeneous and geographic considerations the Marathas and all Marathi speaking peoples

should be brought under one provincial administration, that is, in the future Indian Constitution, Marathas and all Marathi speaking peoples should have a Province of their own.

3. At present the Marathas and the Marathi speaking peoples are to be found in two separate geographic groups, that is, in the Province of Bombay and the Province of C.P. and Berar. In the Bombay Province, excepting the area known as Gujarat and one district, and probably another, in the south eastern boundary of the Province, all other districts of this Province consist overwhelmingly of Marathas and Marathi speaking peoples; the other castes and communities being the depressed classes who of course speak the Marathi language and indeed bear Maratha names and a very negligible proportion of Muslims who also speak our language and, indeed, culturally are closely associated with the Marathas. In the Central Provinces and Berar there are two groups now commonly known as the C.P. Hindi speaking area and C.P. Marathi speaking area. Of these Berar is entirely Maratha and is contiguous with the C.P. Marathi speaking areas where also the Maratha population is overwhelming. The position of the depressed classes in this area is similar to that in the Bombay Province. The Muslims there also speak the Marathi language and form a very small minority. Both Berar and the C.P. Marathi speaking areas are contiguous with the Marathi speaking areas of the Province of Bombay.

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Maratha and Marathi speaking people in the City exceed over half the total population. The other important communities are made up of Gujaratis, Muslims and Parsees. The residue consists of people from all other parts of India.

5. The other non-Maratha castes in the two Provinces are the Brahmins and other forward castes. They, of course, speak Marathi; it is their mother tongue and indeed it is these castes which predominently man the services, Imperial, Provincial, Commercial and Municipal in the two Provinces.

6. For the purpose of this Memorial the definition of Maratha is the same as the one accepted under the Government of India Act.

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8. In the last 150 years the transformation of the Marathas from the position of Rulers to the position of serfdom has been complete and a vindictive conqueror could not have desired a better consummation of his project.

9. Now, however, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has decided that India shall have self-government and it is as a consequence of this declaration of the intention that the Maratha people have decided to make this final approach to you for the purpose stated in paragraph 2 above.

10. It is first necessary that you should have before you the economic position of the Marathas so as to judge for yourself whether under the existing franchise they would be capable of taking an effective part in the forthcoming provincial election and *a fortiori* in the resulting Constituent Assembly which His Excellency the Viceroy will summon.

The overwhelming mass of the Maratha people are cultivators residing in villages with annual income from their landholdings hardly sufficient to fetch bare necessities of life. The position of village labour is much worse.

Our lower middle class consists of persons in occupations such as clerks and small tradesmen and their position is perhaps even worse than that of the cultivators; these occupations forcing them to live in towns and cities.

Our middle class (upper) consists of slightly larger land holders, Inam-holders, lawyers, doctors and men in Government Service. This class is a very small one. The really richer class amongst us consisting of large land and Inam-holders and tradesmen is indeed small in number.

The Maratha labour which is next in size to that of our cultivators, is to be found mostly in large towns and cities occupied in industries and domestic service. Their condition is none better than that of village labour.

11. This, it is hoped, will convince Your Lordship that Provincial elections taking place on the existing franchise will not reflect Maratha opinion and, indeed, it is doubtful if even 5 per cent Marathas can avail of the franchise. It is, therefore, clear that Maratha public opinion will not be represented in the Constituent Assembly and it cannot be expected to have their representative delegates in this Constitution-making Assembly.

12. His Majesty's Government is likely to hold the view that the Constituent Assembly would be the proper body to deliberate and decide the question of forming new Provinces or readjusting the boundaries of the existing ones. If that is going to be the case and in view of the position detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 above how is His Majesty's Government going to provide for Maratha representation on the Constituent Assembly on its acknowledged population basis? It is our confirmed view that this palpable defect can be cured only by an instruction from His Majesty's Government to His Excellency the Viceroy that in such a case he must resort to nomination of Marathas to give the convention a truly democratic colour. It is self-evident that it is the existing franchise that is preventing the Marathas from giving expression to their political thoughts in the necessary democratic form.

13. And, since it is now the confirmed intention of His Majesty's Government to confer self-government on India, the Marathas feel that in the present stage of the Constitutional evolution Your Government owes it to the thirty million Marathas to provide them with a representative position in the Constitution-making Assembly. We feel that, if we are denied this right you will not have shouldered your constitutional responsibilities with justice and fairplay and, indeed, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will demonstrate a lack of moral courage.

14. In the circumstances stated above it is our considered opinion that (a) the arrangement sought in the last part of paragraph 12 should be applied in the case of Maratha representation (b) that there should be an universal plebiscite of all Marathi speaking people in the two Provinces in question to decide the issue of a Province for them and (c) that in view of the present economic backwardness of the Marathas they should be given reservation of Seats in the Legislatures for a period of about twenty years in proportion to their numerical strength. Even in a separate Province this reservation will have to exist to give the Legislatures a truly democratic colour. This would be the minimum justice His Majesty's Government could render the Maraths.

15. We have read with interest Your Lordship's announcement of the 4th December 1945 and while we realise that the delegation will come out with instructions to contact Leaders of Political organisations whether Central or Provincial we feel that the subject brought out in this

memorial is one requiring the personal attention of Your Lordship as it refers to a vitally important question. Indeed it is our feeling that His Majesty's Government should have decided the question of Provincial regroupings before calling into being a Constituent Assembly.

16. Finally we beg to remind His Majesty's Government of the stupendous service the Marathas have rendered to the cause of the United Kingdom and of humanity in the last war and, in a far more spectacular manner in the war just terminated. The manpower employed in the Army alone exceeds one hundred thousand and that in the Army affiliated and subsidiary war services another three hundred thousand. When history is recorded let it not be said that the Marathas were let down badly—it will redound neither to the glory of the British peoples nor of the Maratha peoples.

I beg to remain,
Your Lordship,
Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

(Sd.) D. A. SURVE,

President,
Maratha Peoples' Party.

Nfme — 30 — 26

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MAHRATHAS WANT SEPARATE UNION

Significant Letter To British Journal

(From Our Own Correspondent)

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Indian political circles in London are highly intrigued by a strange report published in "The Times" of a memorial received by the Secretary of State for India from Rao Bahadur D. A. Surve, former Prime Minister of Kolhapur state, who is described as a spokesman of the "Mahratta Peoples' Party."

The memorial says: "Thirty million Maharattas and Maharatti speaking people of Bombay, Central Provinces and Berar should be formed into a single provincial administration."

The memorial further demands special representation for them in the constitution-making body and special weightage in the legislatures for 20 years.

P.I.O BGP(A(

"The Times" report points out that Rao Bahadur Surve's memorandum illustrates "complications of the Indian political problem."

Indian observers here regard that the publicity given to this memorandum by "The Times" is obviously under the inspiration of the India Office on the eve of departure of the parliamentary delegation to India as a symptomatic of the India Office's desire to give the fullest encouragement to all separatist tendencies in India and exaggerated complexity of the Indian constitutional problem.

Extract from the C.C.L.O., Bombay & C.P. Area Monthly Report for the month of Jan. 1946

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7. States: Rao Bahadur Surve, ex-Prime Minister of Kolhapur and now President of the Mahratta People's Party has addressed appeals to leading Mahratta Rulers like Baroda, Gwalior, Indore, Dewas Senior, Dhar, Phaltan and Akalkot asking for their support in the demand made by his party in a representation sent to the Secretary of State for India for (i) a plebicite of all Mahratti speaking people in the Province of Bombay and Central Provinces and Berar, to decide the issue of a separate Mahratta Province, and (ii) for a reservation of seats for the Mahrattas in the Legislature for a period of about 20 years in proportion to their numerical strength.

At the same time the Lingayat leaders are carrying on propaganda in certain of the Eastern States of the Deccan in favour of the unification of the Karnatak based on the Kanarese language.

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W.G's BRANCH
Dt. of Welfare

Forwarded for information.

N H Sunawala.
J/Secd.
S.C.(W.Gs) Wel.3(b)
5 April 1946
(N.H. SUNAWALA)
Tel. No. 2012/364

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1453-W.9/wel/46.
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